



June 29, 2006

Alicia Matthews
Director, Cable Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Director Matthews:

¿Oiste? was founded by activists from across the state to promote the principles and practice of democracy and to advance the political, social and economic standing of Latinos and Latinas in Massachusetts. At the heart of our organization rests the deeply held belief in the importance of direct involvement by Latinos in the development of public programs and policies that shape the future of our community in the Commonwealth.

One area that we strongly believe in is competition. In this arena, we support Verizon's efforts to transform its network to bring new technology to the doorsteps of consumers and businesses. We applaud the company for leading the charge to revolutionize the way we live, work, and communicate in Massachusetts, and investing hundreds of millions of dollars to deploy an advanced broadband fiber network to carry not only voice and high-speed data, but bring genuine competition to the cable television market in Massachusetts. We strongly support this initiative, and in particular, the company's focus on expanding Latino-focused programming to its customers.

As a result of this new technology, the Latino community will have increased access to educational and economic benefits that will help enrich lives and will help fulfill the mission of ¿Oiste?

¿Oiste? fully supports the petition that Verizon has submitted to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) in CTV 06-01 to establish a shorter and more predictable timeline for the competitive franchise. Shortening the process will help speed the benefits consumers should enjoy from real cable competition

Sincerely,

Giovanna Negretti
Executive Director

cc: Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, Janice Tatarka
Chairwoman Judith Judson
Commissioner James Connelly
Commissioner W. Robert Keating
Commissioner Brian Paul Golden